



## Safe Driving Month

Industrial Safety is offering several booklets that provide driving safety tips we believe will be helpful in many emergencies. These series of booklets have been written with organizations such as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, the Federal Highway Administration, and the National Safety Council. The booklets contain excellent safety tips for all family members, especially young drivers!

The following booklets are available:

- Deadly Distractions
- Breakdown
- Driving Dangers
- Alone Behind the Wheel
- Kids in the Car
- Sharing the Road
- Crash Course
- Foul Weather

Note: You can access the 'Shell' website and print the booklet directly from your computer (it is not copyrighted), or obtain hard copies from the Industrial Safety Department. Pick up one for your family or several for an office safety meeting!

## Car Fires

***"Recently I noticed on Martin Road an abandoned van parked along side the road smoking badly. I reported it to the MP's at the gate and later found out that that van had caught fire which closed Martin Road for an hour. Here is an excerpt of an article on how to deal with car fires."***

## Know What to Do if Fire Breaks Out in Your Car--There Could Be Surprises

Vehicle fires are going down, thanks to improved designs and technology. Even so, the National Fire Protection Assn. reports nearly 400,000 vehicle fires in the U.S. each year. In the last 12-month reporting period, they resulted in 575 deaths, 2,225 injuries and \$1.3 million in damage. Moreover, car fires will often cause freeway backups, as curious drivers slow down to get a look. "Vehicle fires are a significant part of our nation's fire problem," the association states in a new report. They amount to 21% of all fires reported in the U.S., plus nearly 10% of all fire injuries.

Would most of us panic, especially if flames shoot out before we can even stop the car? Fire experts say you can take precautions to help improve your chances of safety in a vehicle fire. All agree on the most important one: "Get out!" said Julie Reynolds, spokeswoman for the Fire Protection Assn. "Act quickly. Get out as fast as you can do so safely." Yes, some people panic to the point that they freeze in their seats. That can be fatal. While few car fires lead to explosions the way you see on TV, it's not impossible.

## **Here are some tips to take note in case you come across a car on fire.**

- Get away from the car in case of explosion and fumes
- Contact 911 or security
- Never go back to your car to try to retrieve personal items.

## **See smoke or fire coming from your car? Here's what to do to avoid injuries:**

- Pull over and shut off the engine.
- Do not lift the hood of your vehicle.
- If you do have the hood up and smoke turns to fire, do NOT try to close the lid. It doesn't help reduce the fire, and it makes it difficult for firefighters to douse the flames. It can also push flames through the vents and into the passenger compartment.
- Do not attempt to put out most fires yourself. But use common sense.
- If it's a small flame and you carry a fire extinguisher, you might consider using it.
- Be sure that all passengers are out of the car, and also well away from the vehicle. Children won't always know what to do or where to go.



**The Safety Dispatch is published by the Contractor Safety Forum at MSFC**

## **Contact:**

**John Isom, CST, 961- 2330  
john.isom@msfc.nasa.gov**

<http://vpp.msfc.nasa.gov:2000/>